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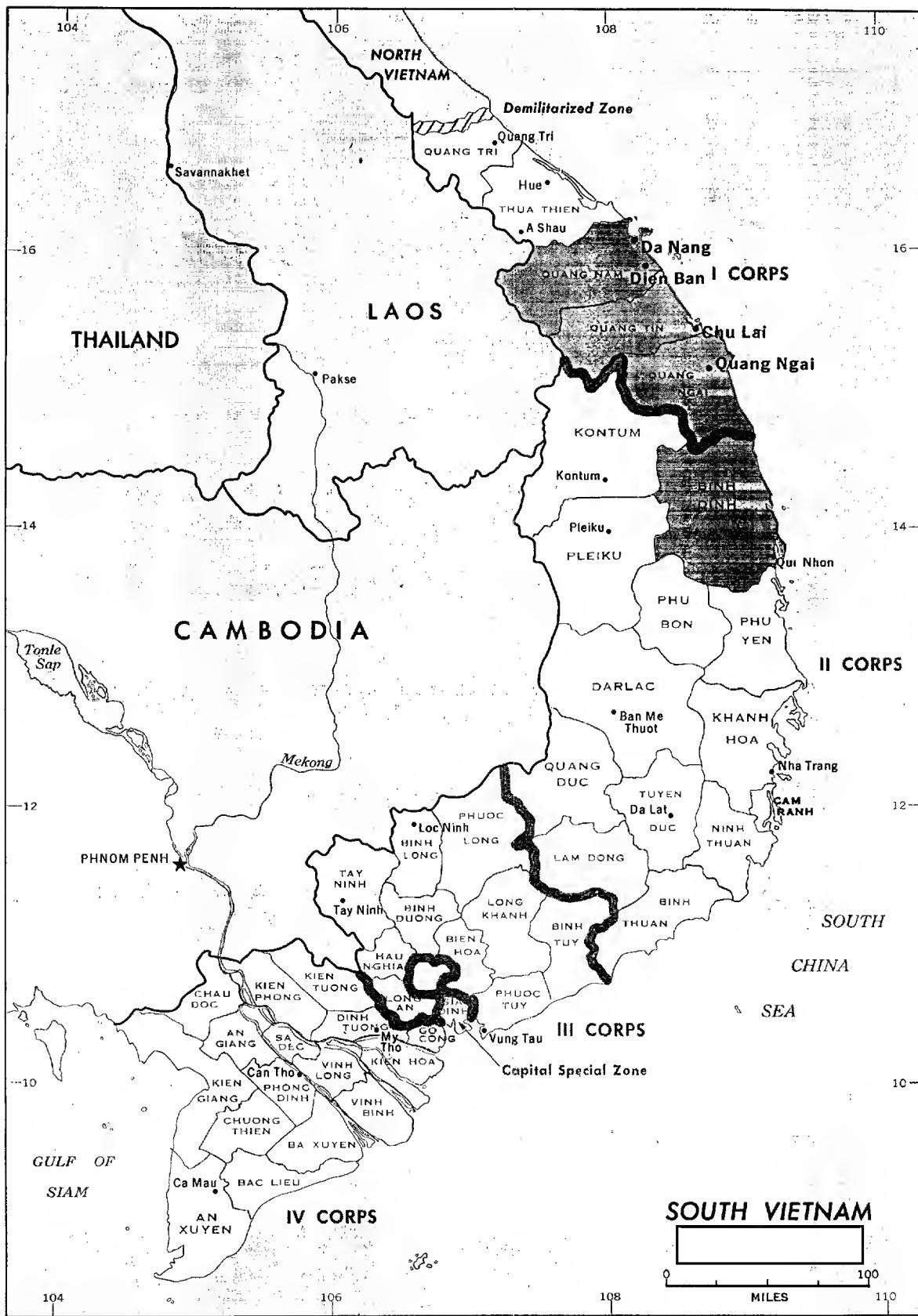
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¶ South Vietnam: Communist forces this weekend intensified their military actions in the northern coastal provinces, particularly in the Da Nang area.

During the early morning hours of 16-17 November, Da Nang Airbase and the US Navy deep-water pier just outside Da Nang city were shelled by at least 14 rounds of 122-mm. rocket fire. Coincident with these actions, five enemy terrorist incidents, reportedly targeted against police, radio, and railway stations, occurred within Da Nang city proper. Allied casualties were relatively light.

Heavy ground fighting between South Vietnamese troops and an estimated 600 North Vietnamese regulars near the district town of Dien Ban, south of Da Nang, was also reported on the 17th. Unconfirmed press reports indicate 63 of the enemy were killed; South Vietnamese Army losses were reported to be four killed and 34 wounded.

The Communists also launched at least 15 shellings against allied military targets in Quang Nam, Quang Tin, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh provinces. The airbase and MACV compound at Quang Ngai city along with the US Marine airfield at Chu Lai were among the more significant targets struck.

In other enemy actions over the weekend, allied military bases in northwestern III Corps as well as seven civilian population areas in the delta and I Corps were subjected to ground assaults or shellings.

Moreover, at least 25 incidents of Communist activity within the Demilitarized Zone were reported during 15-17 November. None of these incidents, however, involved North Vietnamese shellings of allied positions south of the zone and only one involved ground fire against US reconnaissance aircraft. Much]

of the activity detected by allied aerial observers included small-scale troop, vehicle, and watercraft sightings, bunker and foxhole field fortifications, and inactive AAA sites. These targets were subjected to heavy allied artillery and aerial bombardment, resulting in numerous secondary explosions and fires.

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Poland: The party congress has endorsed a new factional balance under Gomulka's continued leadership, giving significant but not decisive power to a young generation of hardliners.

Personnel shifts announced at the end of the six-day conclave on 16 November have infused new and forceful blood into the leadership, but the cost to Gomulka's tired old guard was not as great as the hardline faction probably had hoped. Three pro-Gomulka veterans, including Foreign Minister Rapacki, were dropped from the 12-man policy making politburo, and one from the secretariat.

Three of the four newcomers to the leadership are youthful provincial party leaders associated with Gomulka's main factional rivals: tough, reformist politburo member Gierek and hardline, chauvinistic candidate politburo member Moczar. This is the first time men of this generation have been elected to the politburo, significantly over the heads of several veteran middle-echelon leaders.

These changes probably foreshadow governmental shifts, which may be announced at the next parliamentary session, reportedly to be held very soon.

Significant changes were made in the central committee, expanded from 85 to 92 full members, and from 76 to 91 candidate members. Most of the additional men, as well as the replacements for the one-third of the old membership dropped, appear to be young and forceful critics of Gomulka's stagnant policies. The new central committee probably will exert more control over the top party leadership.

Moczar's failure to gain a full politburo seat has hurt him somewhat. It probably reflects, however, an earlier compromise between him and Gomulka on the sharing of power.

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There will be no change for the present in Warsaw's domestic and foreign policies, but the newcomers may try to implement these policies more forcefully.

The factional struggle probably will continue on the lower level of the party apparatus, under the guise of the militant "antirevisionism" endorsed by the conclave, and will be pressed in Gomulka's name by a cast of tough new men with not a liberal among them. [redacted]

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Czechoslovakia: The Communist Party leadership has taken on a centrist coloration and has established a new high-level committee to check the influence of liberals and conservatives.

Party chief Dubcek, President Svoboda, Premier Cernik and National Assembly President Smrkovsky have all retained their posts after a stormy party central committee plenum. Dubcek, however, now appears to have a potential rival in conservative Lubomir Strougal, who was installed in four top party posts. Strougal, who was once described as a dogmatist and a close friend of former party boss Novotny, may turn out to be Moscow's monitor in Prague.

Strougal was named to the executive committee of the party presidium, a newly created body in which the real powers of leadership are now invested. Subject to ratification by the presidium, the committee is charged with settling urgent political problems. Because its majority are moderates, the committee will prevent liberal or conservative factions from seizing control of the party.

In addition, Strougal was designated chief of a new party bureau for the Czech lands. The bureau was created to carry out federalization of the Communist Party by organizing a Czech party to parallel the already existing Slovak party.

There are now eight party secretaries rather than three. This move brings conservatives into positions where they can influence implementation of policy. The plenum was dominated by contention over the party's future, and it ended without resolving basic differences. Nevertheless, it approved a much-amended resolution on "party tasks" which will be published on 19 November.

During the plenum, Dubcek, Cernik and possibly other leaders made a quick flight to Warsaw to inform Brezhnev, who was there attending the Polish

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party congress, about the decisions made in Prague. They may also have discussed the security situation in view of continuing anti-Soviet demonstrations.

Czechoslovak students over the weekend staged country-wide nonviolent demonstrations in support of Dubcek and the liberals. Student leaders yesterday called for a nation-wide sit-in strike in universities, "like the one in France," to begin today to protest new restrictions and elimination of some reforms.

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Portugal: Prime Minister Caetano during his first six weeks in office has made some cautious moves toward liberalization.

The most noticeable one has been a relaxation of censorship. Caetano has increased the flow of information on government activity, allowed criticism of the conduct of government business, and has responded constructively to such criticism.

He has also forbidden the use of preventive arrest by the secret police and permitted the exiled Socialist leader, Maxio Soares, to return. Caetano acted to head off the growth of student agitation by initiating studies on educational reform and promising funds for remodeling university facilities.

On the other hand, Caetano has not abolished censorship or abrogated the law on preventive arrest and he continues to legislate by decrees. There has been no apparent change in foreign policy or attitude toward Portugal's overseas territories.

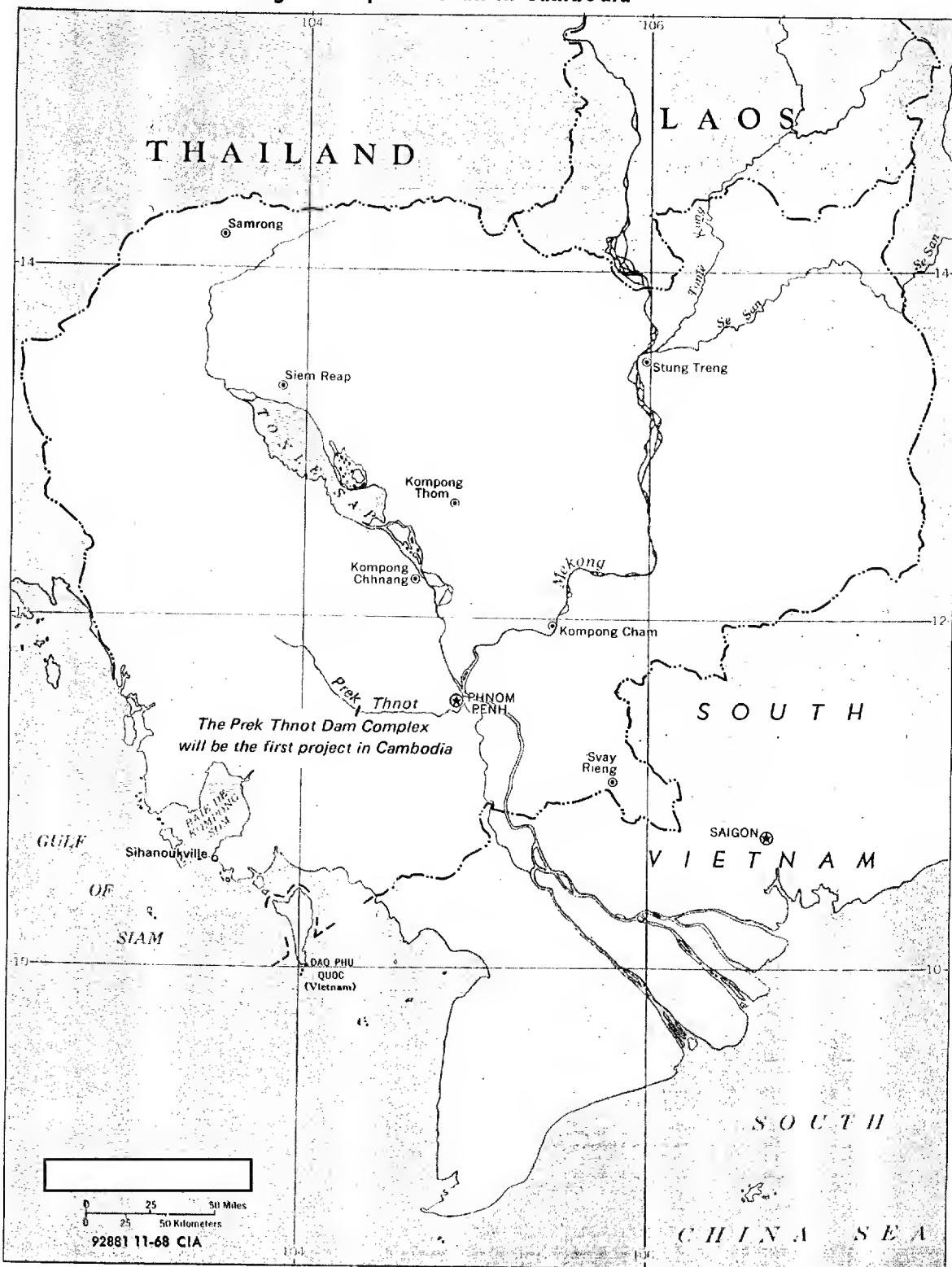
Some disappointment exists over lack of more rapid change, but there is general admiration for Caetano's performance to date and a willingness to wait and see what he will do. [redacted]

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United Nations' Mekong Development Plan in Cambodia



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Cambodia: United Nations' sponsorship of an important dam project in Cambodia will increase the country's generating capacity by more than 25 percent and irrigate an estimated 12,000 acres of farmland.

An 11-nation group headed by Japan has agreed to build the Prek Thnot Dam in southern Cambodia as the UN Mekong Committee's first project there. Cambodia and Japan each will finance a third of the estimated cost of \$27 million and the other nine donor nations will finance the remaining third.

The Mekong Development Plan provides for improved irrigation, flood control, electric power generating capacity, and navigational facilities in the Mekong River Basin. Projects under the plan are already under way in Thailand, Laos, and South Vietnam.

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Thailand: The government is still having trouble getting organized to contest next February's legislative elections.

The recently concluded first gathering of the government's Saha Pracha Thai (SPT) party has failed to live up to the expectations of government leaders. Designed to generate enthusiasm among the party's rank and file and to move ahead with organizational details, the Bangkok meetings were instead marked by factional quarrels and heated attacks on the high-handed tactics of government spokesmen.

Most of the protests came from politicians with ties to Deputy Prime Minister Praphat. Brought into the SPT via the Praphat-organized Free People's League, these elements may believe they had certain assurances about the role they were to play in the government party that are now being circumvented by SPT organizers. Conciliatory gestures on the part of Prime Minister Thanom and other government leaders forestalled an open split at the meeting, but it is clear that the differences have not yet been reconciled.

Dissatisfaction among the rank and file comes at a time when party leaders have only begun to smooth over their own differences over party policies. The recent squabbling may be a good indication that this process is not very far along, although so far Praphat has avoided any public association with the Free People's League malcontents. It seems likely that Praphat's rival, Prime Minister Thanom, who has been criticized for his leadership deficiencies, has lost some ground in the current situation.

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NOTE

USSR: The Soviet Union orbited Proton-4, its largest experimental satellite, on 16 November. According to Moscow's official announcement, the satellite weighs about 37,000 pounds and contains almost 28,000 pounds of "scientific apparatus." Much of this weight, however, is believed to be for radiation shielding. Three earlier Proton satellites--orbited between July 1965 and July 1966--weighed some 10,000 pounds less than Proton-4. A Proton launched in March 1966 failed to achieve orbit. The booster used to launch Proton-4 was similar to but more powerful than the one used on previous Proton launches. It consisted of the first two stages of the four-stage SL-12 "Zond" rocket, the largest operational Soviet booster.

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